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WEATHER—RAIN.

WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1916.

ONE CENT.

CROWN PRINCE DRIVES HUGE WEDGE THROUGH FRENCH NEAR VERDUN

280,000 Germans Advance Two Miles Sweeping Trenches On 10-Mile Front After Appalling Losses of Thousands.

VETERANS FROM EAST ARE USED

Allies View Mammoth Offensive Beginning with War's Greatest Battle and Including Attacks Against Belfort and in Artois and Flanders as Kaiser's Final Effort.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.
London, Feb. 23.—Led by the crown prince, 280,000 Germans are attacking the French on a front of twenty-five miles in a colossal smash for the great fortress of Verdun.

They have broken through the French lines on a front of ten miles to a depth of two miles and are within eight miles of the fortress. The village of Haumont is in German hands.

The French are inflicting bloody losses on the attacking troops. The battle is rapidly developing into the greatest of the war.

French and English view it as the last tremendous effort of the Germans which, if it fails, will condemn them to a shackled defensive on every front.

Artillery Duel on 25-Mile Front.

The most terrific artillery duel in history is proceeding on the twenty-five mile stretch between Malancourt to the region in front of Etain. The great German guns are keeping up an uninterrupted bombardment with shells of great caliber. The French, in reply, are unleashing hurricanes of lead and iron.

The losses on both sides are counted in the tens of thousands, according to all accounts. The Germans have captured 3,000 Frenchmen and great stores of booty where they cut through the French lines.

Paris correspondents describe the German losses as "appalling." The attacks are being made by picked troops, veterans of Russia and the Balkans, men who took part in the first great drive on Paris.

"In the region north of Verdun," says a French official statement issued at midnight, "the German attack is developing into a very important action prepared with powerful forces."

Germans Gain Near Belfort.

The drive on Verdun is the main action in a four-pronged offensive movement on the western front. Further east, in the hills of Upper Alsace, a determined offensive against the fortress of Belfort is under way. Here the German report announces the capture of a French position on a front of more than 400 yards to a depth of 350 yards.

The other drives, in Artois and against the British in the Yser region, are believed to have their object in preventing the allies from transferring troops to the imperiled front before Verdun and from re-enforcing Belfort.

75 Dragged from Flames in Passaic

Fire Destroying Block in Tenement Section Causes \$300,000 Damage.

Special to The Washington Herald.

Passaic, N. J., Feb. 23.—One of the largest fires in the history of Passaic swept an entire square block in the foreign residential section tonight, making seventy-five families homeless. The damage is estimated by fire officials at \$300,000. The fire broke out in a four-story tenement house. When firemen arrived the tenement was a roaring furnace.

The blaze spread with lightning swiftness and soon an entire block was a mass of flames.

Seventy-five women and children overcame by smoke, were dragged from the buildings by policemen and firemen.

Two firemen were badly injured when the front wall of a tenement collapsed.

American Kitchen in Berlin.

Berlin, Feb. 23.—The American Chamber of Commerce in Berlin, on March 1, will inaugurate a new auxiliary kitchen for persons who are in need owing to the war. Berlin papers speak with satisfaction of "this proof of American sympathies."

To Pay Dividend in War Bonds.

Wilmington, Del., Feb. 23.—A quarterly dividend of 24 per cent was declared today upon the common stock of the du Pont Powder Company. Nineteen per cent will be paid in Anglo-French bonds and the remaining 5 per cent in cash.

Explosion in Munitions Plant.

Milwaukee, Wis., Feb. 23.—Two men were seriously hurt today by the explosion of an acetylene tank in the war munitions plant of the Allis-Chalmers Company, at West Allis, a suburb. The injured men were laborers in the boiler shop.

Reward Destroyers of Zeppelin.

Paris, Feb. 23.—A gift of \$1,000 was given today by the Marquis d'Ornano for distribution among the members of the gun crew that destroyed the Zeppelin L-77 on Monday night.

German Gas Attacks Endanger Civilians

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

Paris, Feb. 23.—Recent German gas attacks on the Picardy front have endangered the lives of the population of the entire region as far back as Amiens, twenty miles distant.

The citizens of Amiens the morning following the gas offensive, arose to find a strong odor of chloride ether in the air. The prefect made an auto tour of the neighborhood and found many peasants seriously ill, but no deaths had occurred.

Instructions have been given the population to reserve one room in each house as a hermetically sealed chamber for refuge during gas attacks. Masks for protection against gas are being distributed.

G. O. P. PLANS MANN ATTACK

Fight Will Begin if Leader Continues to Side with Woods.

REGULARS FAVOR LONGWORTH FOR CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE

Majority Vote of Twenty-nine Claimed by Republicans—McKinley May Quit Subcommittee Leadership.

By JOSEPH P. ANNIN.

Unless Minority Leader Mann acquiesces in the demand of a majority of the Republican Congressional committee that the present chairman, Representative Woods, of Iowa, Progressive Republican, be displaced in favor of one of the "regulars," the present bill, in the contest is liable to be rudely broken by a concerted attack upon the minority leader himself.

The "regulars" now claim twenty-nine of the thirty-eight votes in the committee in favor of their candidate, Representative Longworth, of Ohio. They have been holding off final action, hoping that Mr. Mann would openly endorse Longworth and thus cut under Representative Woods what they believe to be his principal support. However, having the votes, they are about ready to "put the question" and let the chips fall where they may.

While the regulars deny that the issue is along the old regular Progressive factional lines, they feel that Mr. Mann is aiding the Progressive leader, Lenroot, of Wisconsin, to direct the fight into just those lines.

Too Friendly with Progressives.

Moreover, they feel that Mann has been entirely too friendly to the Progressive-Republicans. They declare that they stood by and watched most of the committee plums go to Progressives, with the result that the next Republican House probably will find former Progressive-Republicans at the head of most of the important committees, and now they declare Mr. Mann is seeking to aid the minority Progressive representation in their effort to dictate the destinies of the Congressional committee.

Of the twenty-nine votes claimed for Longworth, the following have been accounted for: Representatives Graham, Pennsylvania; Brownlee, New York; Kahn, California; Smith, Idaho; Austin, Tennessee; Mondell, Wyoming; Kennedy, Rhode Island; Johnson, Washington; Howell, Utah; Tilton, Connecticut; Britt, North Carolina; Miller, Delaware; Fairchild, New York; McKinley, Illinois; Wasson, New Hampshire; Wood, Indiana; Roberts, Nevada; Campbell, Kansas; Dyer, Missouri; Langley, Kentucky; Winslow, Massachusetts; Mudd, Maryland; and Senator Catron, New Mexico. Total, 23.

Representative McKinley, chairman of the finance committee, having announced some time ago that he would resign from the committee if Woods were re-elected, has virtually severed his connection and will send in his resignation shortly unless definite action displacing Woods is taken. Mr. Mann has been told the regulars will stand behind any one of eight men—McKinley, Fordney, Longworth, Austin, Fairchild, Graham, Wood, of Indiana or Johnson—if Mr. Mann will agree to support him.

Exiled King Offered Command.

Rome, Feb. 23.—The Gazette del Popolo, of Milan, states that Emperor Nicholas of Russia has offered the command of a Russian army corps to King Nicholas of Montenegro, who holds the rank of Russian field marshal.

Japanese Steamer Wrecked.

Kobe, Japan, Feb. 23.—The Japanese steamship Tenyo Maru, 15,493 tons, has gone ashore off Shimonekei, sustaining extensive damage. Part of the cargo has been jettisoned. The Tenyo Maru was bound from Hong Kong to San Francisco.

Cummins in Race for Presidency.

Des Moines, Iowa, Feb. 23.—United States Senator Albert B. Cummins will be a candidate for President of the United States on the Republican primary ticket in Iowa. Mr. Cummins sent an affidavit from Washington and it was filed with the secretary of state here today.



AWAITING THE PSYCHOLOGICAL MOMENT.

VILLA WOULD KILL 'GRINGOS'

Hatred of Americans Now Monomania of Rebel, Say Refugees.

DEFEATS CARRANZISTAS IN CAVALRY ENGAGEMENT

Special to The Washington Herald.

El Paso, Feb. 23.—Mexicans arriving here today from San Geronimo, where Villa has been making his headquarters for weeks, said that the rebel chief constantly talks of his hatred for Americans and his desire to exterminate all "gringos" in Mexico.

"This hatred has become a monomania with Villa," said one of the arrivals. Arrivals told how Villa annihilated Carranza cavalry detachment about ten days ago near Santa Ana, a few miles from San Geronimo. It was related that the rebel leader split his command into three groups. One of these groups stayed in plain view of the Carranza cavalry who attacked them. When the fight was well begun, Villa sent the other two detachments into the Carranzistas from flank and rear.

Marion Letcher, consul at Chihuahua City returned to that city today to reopen the consulate. Before leaving he stated that his return to Mexico was not to be construed as a sanction of the State Department for the return of Americans in general. Contrarily he warned all Americans interested in Mexico not to go back until express notice is given by the State Department.

NEW STEEL COMBINE TO SPEND MILLIONS

Bethlehem and Pennsylvania Officials Inspect Plants and Will Expand Baltimore Factory.

Harrisburg, Pa., Feb. 23.—E. P. Grace, president of the Bethlehem Steel Company; E. C. Plon, president of the Pennsylvania Steel Company, and a party of officials of the two companies today made an inspection of the Pennsylvania Steel Company's plant at Steelton. Mr. Grace said that it was planned to spend millions of dollars immediately on the Lebanon, Steelton and Sparrows Point plants. The party will arrive in Baltimore tonight where they will inspect the Sparrows Point plant.

Simple Life Urged in England.

London, Feb. 23.—The National Organizing Committee on war savings today issued an appeal to all employers of domestic servants in large houses to drastically reduce their staffs and close part of their houses. The committee also urges that simpler meals be served, and that garden luxuries, especially from hot houses, be sacrificed in order to save money and release domestic labor for more useful purposes.

Estimates Turks Lost 300,000.

London, Feb. 23.—The Wireless Press today issued a Rome dispatch saying that according to Petrograd telegrams the Turkish losses at Erzerum are believed to have totaled 300,000.

U. S. HOLDS AX OVER CAN CO.

Federal Court Allows Combine to Continue "During Good Behavior."

DECISION SETS PRECEDENT IN "SO-CALLED TRUST" CASES

Special to The Washington Herald.

Baltimore, Feb. 23.—In an opinion handed down today in the United States District Court Judge Rose held that the would not order the dissolution of the American Can Company, but would retain the bill filed against it by the government and if the corporation should at any time hereafter do anything which will justify or require action of the court, there seems to be no reason why the government should not then get the relief to which it then should be entitled.

What has been proved, Judge Rose said, is, first, that the defendant was organized to monopolize interstate trade in cans and to attain that object such trade was unlawfully restrained. Second, for some time before the filing of the petition in this case, it had done nothing of which any competitor or any consumer complains or anything which strikes a disinterested outsider as unfair or unethical.

Used Power for Good of Late.

The court holds that "while it had its origin in unlawful acts and thereby acquired a power which may be harmful, and the acquisition of which in any event was contrary to the policy of Congress as embodied in the statute, it for some time past has used that power, on the whole, rather for weal than for woe."

DENY BULGAR ATROCITIES.

American Red Cross Doctors Report Safety of Neutrals Is Respected.

Berlin, Feb. 23.—It is reported to the Overseas News Agency from Sofia that Dr. Cornelius Webster, Dr. Brokaw, Dr. Tonal, Dr. Robert Parsons, Dr. George Logan, and Dr. Peters, all American physicians attached to Lady Paget's Red Cross hospital in Uskub, have written letters to the Bulgarian press denying that they had any knowledge of alleged Bulgarian atrocities.

In particular, they refute the charges made by Dr. Scheleens, and express deep regret that an American should spread false reports about a country where liberty of neutrals is respected.

OPENS DEBATE ON PEACE.

British Laborite Tells Parliament to Give Up Hope of Crushing Victory.

London, Feb. 23.—"There is no ground for hope for a decisive crushing victory on either side in this war," declared P. Snowden, a Laborite member of the house of commons, in a speech in the lower chamber today.

Snowden's speech opened the long-expected debate on peace terms in Parliament, and an effort is to be made to force the government to make known on what terms it will make peace with Germany.

GERMANS SEND PRIZE TO PORT

Teuton Raider's Crew Takes British Steamer to the Canary Islands.

HAS PRISONERS FROM SIX BRITISH STEAMERS ABOARD

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

London, Feb. 23.—A Reuter dispatch from Santa Cruz, in the Canary Islands, states that the British steamer Westburn has put in there for repairs, flying a German flag, and in charge of a prize crew, consisting of an officer and seven men.

One of the latter, according to the dispatch, wears a cap inscribed "H. M. S. Moewe." The dispatch was evidently mutilated in transmission, and it is assumed here that the name on the cap is "Moewe," that of the German raider, which captured the Appam, and is still at large.

In addition to her own crew, the Westburn had aboard a large number of prisoners taken from various British vessels, named in the dispatch as the Plamento, Horace, Clan Macatavish, Edinburg, Belge and Luxemburg. There were also seven Spanish sailors aboard.

Western Small Steel Steamer.

The Westburn is listed as a steel steamer of 3,300 tons. The Clan Macatavish is the British ship which fought the German raider Moewe and was sunk by her. Four wounded members of the Clan Macatavish crew, who had been rescued by the German raiders, were brought to Newport News on the captured steamer Appam.

CLOUDS HIDE AIR RAIDERS.

Germans Fly High to Escape English Patrols, Balfour Says.

London, Feb. 23.—To escape detection by British air patrols, German aviators now fly in the clouds on their way to attack English towns.

Alfred J. Balfour, first lord of the admiralty, stated in the house of commons this afternoon that in the recent raids upon Lowestoft and Walmer the enemy aeroplanes approached at so great a height that they were not observed by the lookouts until they dived just before dropping bombs.

Mexicans Honor Madero.

Mexico City, via Galveston, Texas, Feb. 23.—Officials and civilians united today in memorial services for President Madero and Vice President Pino Suarez, who were assassinated three years ago. All business was suspended.

French Command in Mediterranean.

London, Feb. 23.—General command of the allies naval forces in the Mediterranean Sea, has been placed in the hands of the French commander-in-chief, it was announced in the house of commons today by First Lord of the Admiralty H. J. Balfour. The Duke of the Abruzzi, commander-in-chief of the Italian navy, has been put in command of the naval forces in the Adriatic.

The Convenient Way—Augusta Special For Columbia, Allen, Augusta, Leave Washington 7 a. m. daily. Southern Railway—Ad.

WILSON IN FIGHT WITH CAPITOL AS U.S. FACES CRISIS

Congress Opposes Determination of President to Force "Show-Down" With Germany on Sub Issue

TEUTON ANSWER IS RECEIVED

Berlin's Reply Believed Unsatisfactory; Congress, Defying Wilson, Would Warn Americans Off Armed Ships

President Wilson and Congress, facing a genuine crisis with Germany, are at loggerheads on the question of policy.

The situation is unprecedented. Never before in the history of the United States has there been an occasion when the executive head of the nation and Congress have been so widely apart on a matter of such immediate gravity.

As a climax to a day of chaos, the German reply to the latest demands of the United States reached Washington last night. It is understood to be unsatisfactory.

The President has told the leaders of Congress that he is determined to force "an immediate show-down" with the Teutonic allies, and has warned them that he will not tolerate any interference with his handling of the international situation.

Congress is equally determined that Americans shall be warned off armed merchantmen, totally in defiance of the President's expressed wishes.

Administration advisers and the leaders in Congress last night were in a state of uncertainty and apprehension that operated against the possibility of concerted action. No one of them was willing to predict what the day will bring forth.

WOULD REGARD ACTION AS AFFRONT.

The situation may best be summarized as follows:

Senator Stone, chairman of the committee on foreign relations and the spokesman in the Senate for the administration, told his colleagues that the President would take as a personal affront any legislation regarding the submarine issue.

Representative Flood, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, will tell the President this morning that a powerful group in Congress, probably a majority of both houses, is opposed to his plan of forcing Germany to admit the right of neutrals to travel on armed ships.

Senator Gore, of Oklahoma, announced that he will introduce at the first opportunity a resolution prohibiting American citizens from traveling on armed merchantmen.

Democratic members of the House in conference last night deputized Representative Flood to tell the President today that a resolution warning American citizens off armed ships will probably be passed unless he alters his position.

From the White House a telephone message went to Representative Flood late in the afternoon, his reply to which was an announcement that sentiment in Congress was overwhelmingly in opposition to the President.

PRESIDENT'S ATTITUDE IS DENOUNCED.

A stampede of the House in a hysterical rush for immediate action was staved off only by heroic work on the part of administration leaders. On the floor, in cloak rooms, and in corridors sensational scenes were enacted, and vigorous criticism was directed at the President's plan to stand firm in the controversy with Germany even to the point of war.

Majority Leader Kitchin declared that if the President proposed to force Germany into war he could not count on the support of Congress.

The Democratic members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee met last night and decided that the situation admits of no improvement unless the President consents to make some sort of compromise.

At the White House it was announced that Senator Stone, at the request of the President, will not make his intended speech in reply to Elihu Root's attack on the administration.

The White House also denied that the President has approved a plan for the adoption by Congress of a resolution warning Americans off armed merchant vessels.

Stone Supports Wilson.

Senator Stone worked valiantly throughout the long, exciting day in the Senate supporting the President in his efforts to suppress agitation of the submarine question.

An absolute break between the President and Mr. Stone, it was learned yesterday, was narrowly averted at the conference between the President and the chairman of the two committees on foreign relations of the Senate and House Monday night.

Senator Stone and Mr. Flood, on that occasion told the President the gravity of the situation lay in the fact that Congress was overwhelmingly opposed to the President's policy in the controversy with Germany.

The President informed the two chairmen that all questions of foreign intercourse must be left to the executive department, and is said to have intimated that he would not tolerate interference.

Although personally favoring the adoption of a resolution prohibiting Americans traveling on armed merchant ships, Senator Stone finally consented to lead the fight for the administration. He declared flatly, however, that he did not intend to lead a minority. As the story leaked out yesterday, bit by bit, it appears that Stone put up to the President the matter of compelling his party to support him.

Situation at Grave.

Confirming this part of the proceedings of Monday night's conference several Senators and Representatives appeared at the White House yesterday morning at the President's request. When they returned to the Capitol they did not disguise the fact that they considered the situation as grave.

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO.